

Message Text

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PAGE 01 PRETOR 04398 011339Z
ACTION AF-10

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 IO-13 ISO-00 PA-01 ICA-11 SS-15
NSC-05 CIAE-00 INR-10 NSAE-00 DODE-00 /078 W
-----032324 020255Z /66

R 011326Z AUG 78
FM AMEMBASSY PRETORIA
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 1938
USMISSION USUN NEW YORK
INFO AMEMBASSY DAR ES SALAAM
AMEMBASSY GABORONE
AMEMBASSY LAGOS
AMEMBASSY LILONGWE
AMEMBASSY LONDON
AMEMBASSY LUSAKA
AMEMBASSY MAPUTO
AMCONSUL DURBAN

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E.O. 11652: N/A
TAGS: PINT, PDEV, PINS, RH
SUBJECT: RHODESIA: WHITES CONTINUE TO LEAVE

1. PRESS ACCOUNTS REPUTEDLY REFLECTING THE LATEST RHODESIAN GOVERNMENT OFFICIAL STATISTICS, SAY THAT, AS OF THE END OF JUNE, A NET TOTAL OF 3,676 WHITES HAVE LEFT RHODESIA THIS YEAR. JUNE'S FIGURES WERE 1,138 LEAVING AND 395 ENTERING FOR A TOTAL LOSS OF 743. THE IMMIGRATION FIGURE FOR JUNE IS REPORTEDLY THE SECOND LOWEST SINCE WORLD WAR II.

2. COMMENT: PROJECTING THE JUNE FIGURES FORWARD WOULD GIVE AN ESTIMATED NET LOSS OF 7,000 TO 8,000 FOR THE YEAR. THIS IS BELOW THE FIGURES OF 1977 WHEN THE NET LOSS WAS OVER 12,000 RHODESIANS BUT SHOWS THAT THE OUTFLOW IS STILL SIGNIFICANT. WITH THE WHITE POPULATION AT ABOUT 260,000,
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PAGE 02 PRETOR 04398 011339Z

THE EMIGRATION PROJECTION FOR 1978 WOULD ACCOUNT FOR ALMOST THREE PERCENT.

3. SEVERAL ACADEMIC AND JOURNALISTIC OBSERVERS THE EMBASSY HAS SPOKEN TO FEEL THAT THE OUTFLOW WILL BEGIN TO TAPER OFF BARRING AN OUTRIGHT CIVIL WAR AND BREAKDOWN OF ADMINISTRATION. THIS IS BECAUSE THOSE STILL LEFT EITHER CANNOT EASILY LEAVE

(I.E., NOWHERE TO GO AND INADEQUATE FUND ALLOWANCE FOR IMMIGRANTS) OR DO NOT WANT TO LEAVE (I.E., NATIVE BORN OR POLITICALLY OR ECONOMICALLY COMMITTED.) THEY ALSO SAY THAT THOSE LEAVING REPRESENT THE YOUNGER, DRAFT-AGE, WORKING CLASS WHO ARE "THE HOPE OF THE FUTURE", AND, THEREFORE, THE EMIGRATION FIGURES DON'T ACCURATELY REPRESENT THE IMPACT THE LOSSES HAVE ON WHITE ATTITUDES AND CONFIDENCE IN THE FUTURE.
EDMONDSON

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Message Attributes

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Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: POPULATION MOVEMENTS
Control Number: n/a
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Draft Date: 01 aug 1978
Decaption Date: 01 jan 1960
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 20 Mar 2014
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Disposition History: n/a
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Status: NATIVE
Subject: RHODESIA: WHITES CONTINUE TO LEAVE
TAGS: PINT, PDEV, PINS, RH
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